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OT 501 A Survey of Biblical Hebrew

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OT501A SURVEY OF BIBLICAL HEBREW
Spring 2006
Tues/Thurs 4:00-5:15 pm

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Please note that this syllabus is subject to revision by the professor.

1. Course Description

This course introduces students to Biblical Hebrew for purposes of exegetical work in pastoral ministry. Particular emphasis is given to the fundamentals of Biblical Hebrew and basic exegetical tools, including types of parsing aids especially suited for pastoral use.

2. Course Objectives

Having successfully completed this course, students will be able to:

- 2.1. Analyze Biblical Hebrew words through the use of elementary phonology.
- 2.2. Determine the range of grammatical functions and choose the most appropriate one(s) by observing word formation (morphology).
- 2.3. Interpret the interrelations of Hebrew words (syntax).
- 2.4. Identify the use and significance of basic grammatical constructions.
- 2.5. Benefit from the use of standard lexical and reference grammars.

3. Course Requirements

- 3.1. A critical element of language study is attendance. Faithful attendance is expected.
- 3.2. Students will receive assignments (exercises from the textbook, worksheet handouts, and quizzes) to complete before the next session. Full completion of assignments is essential in order to obtain the learning goals of this course. Students should be prepared to discuss the assigned exercises by the beginning of each class period. The instructor will collect the assignments at the beginning of each session. Feel free to collaborate with others on these assignments, but be sure that all work submitted is your own.
- 3.3. Since each day's work will depend on the completion of prior work, it is imperative that students complete all assignments and quizzes on time. Unexcused late assignments will be deducted 25% for each class day late. Unexcused quizzes will be deducted 33% for each class day late.
- 3.4. In the event of an emergency, it is the student's responsibility to notify the instructor as soon as possible. Absences or work submitted late will be considered unexcused if no *prior* notice is given.
- 3.5. There will be 13 quizzes during the term (see schedule below), a midterm exam, and a final exam. Most of the quizzes will be take-home, closed book, closed notes. A few quizzes will be in-class vocabulary quizzes. The take-home quizzes will include vocabulary, listed in Seow, as well as certain grammatical issues covered in class.
- 3.6. The in-class Final Exam will be held **1:00-3:00 pm, on Monday, May 15**. Students with an average of 95% or higher prior to the final exam may elect not to take the exam. The Word

Study Assignment will be due by **5:00 pm, on May 11**. The Grammatical Analysis Assignment will be due by **5:00 pm, on May 18**.

- 3.7 Asbury Seminary has a chapter of Eta Beta Rho (EBR or רְב []) a national Hebrew honor society. Students who have taken OT501 and are interested in OT or Hebrew study will be eligible and encouraged to seek membership in the society.

4. Required Texts

4.1 Required texts [abbreviations in brackets, cf. **Course Outline** below]

Arnold, Bill T. and John H. Choi. *A Guide to Biblical Hebrew Syntax*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003. [Guide, Arnold & Choi]

Elliger, K., and W. Rudolph. *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia*. Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, 1967-77. [BHS]

Holladay, William L. *A Concise Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Eerdmans, 1971. [HALOT]

Scott, William R. *A Simplified Guide to BHS*. Berkeley, Calif.: BIBAL, 1987. [Scott]

Seow, C. L. *A Grammar for Biblical Hebrew*. Rev. ed. Nashville: Abingdon, 1995. [Seow]

4.2 Optional texts

Brown, Francis, S. R. Driver, and Charles A. Briggs. *A Hebrew and English Lexicon of the Old Testament*. Oxford: Oxford, 1907; reprint, Peabody, Mass.: Hendrickson, 1979. [BDB]

- An acceptable substitute for Holladay above.
- For many, the lexicon of choice for nearly 100 years. Still useful, but in desperate need of updating.
- Arranges words by their root, instead of in strict alphabetical order (thus making it more difficult for the beginning student to use).

Chisholm, Robert. *From Exegesis to Exposition: A Practical Guide to Using Biblical Hebrew*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1998. [Chisholm]

- Designed as a 2nd year textbook.
- Helps the student to make the move from reading Biblical Hebrew to preaching, teaching, etc.

Long, Gary A. *Grammatical Concepts 101 for Biblical Hebrew*. Peabody, Mass.: Hendrickson, 2002.

- Introduces Hebrew concepts by first introducing the concept in English.
- Helpful for students who struggle with English grammar.

4.3 Recommended software

BibleWorks 6.0. Norfolk, Virginia. (Purchase not required; available in the Info Commons at ATS for those who do not purchase the software.)

- A powerful and flexible biblical language software program.
- Equipped with parsing tools.
- Includes lexicons, flashcard tool, and other resources.

Hebrew Tutor. Parsons Technology.

- A first year course in Biblical Hebrew with interactive features.
- Provides practice drills and exercises.
- Pronounces Hebrew words.
- Some material is presented differently from OT501.

5. Student Evaluation

5.1 Exercises	15%
5.2 Worksheets	15%
5.3 Quizzes	15%
5.4 Midterm Examination (in class, March 30)	20%
5.5 Final Examination (1:00-3:00pm, May 15)	15%
5.5.1 Vocabulary (including ch. 20)	4.5%
5.5.2 Translation	3.75%
5.5.3 Concepts	6.75%
5.6 Word Study Assignment (Due: 5:00pm, May 11)	5%
5.7 Grammatical Analysis Assignment (Due: 5:00pm, May 18)	15%

6. Letter Grade/Percentage Standard:

A	95-100%	C	73-76.9%
A-	90-94.9%	C-	70-72.9%
B+	87-89.9%	D+	67-69.9%
B	83-86.9%	D	63-66.9%
B-	80-82.9%	D-	60-62.9%
C+	77-79.9%	F	Below 60

7. Course Outline

* Note that in-class quizzes are in bold. The numbers in brackets represent the lesson(s) in Seow from which vocabulary primarily will be taken for the quiz.

Class	Topics	*Quizzes	Homework	Reading
Week 1	A ➤ Introduction ➤ The Alphabet ➤ The writing system			
	B ➤ Dagesh and begadkepat letters ➤ Introduction to final assignment. ➤ Hand out <i>Concept Sheet</i> .			Seow, Lesson 1 <i>Guide</i> , 1.0
Week 2	A ➤ Simple vowels, stress, and accents ➤ Vowel markers and the Shewa	Quiz #1 Due: Alphabet	Seow, 1.b, c	Seow, Lesson 2
	B ➤ More Vowels Syllabification			

Week 3	A	➤ Nouns	Quiz #2 Due: Lesson 2	Seow, 2.a(odd), b (odd)	Seow, Lesson 3 <i>Guide</i> , 2.0; 2.1; 2.1.1-2
	B	➤ Word patterns (geminate, segolate, prefixed, etc.) ➤ Hebrew roots and patterns	*Quiz #3: Vocab Quiz [2]	Seow, 3a(even), b(odd)	Seow, Lessons 4-5
Week 4	A	➤ Introduction to Holladay Lexicon ➤ Definite article	Quiz #4 Due: Lessons 3-5 [3 & 4]	Seow, 4.a	Seow, Lesson 6 <i>Guide</i> , 2.6; 4.1.5, 9, 10; 4.3.3
	B	➤ Prepositions and simple conjunctions		- Holladay Worksheet (nouns)	
Week 5	A	➤ The Adjective	Quiz #5: Vocab [5 & 6]	- Seow 6.c(odd) - Prepositions Worksheet	Seow, Lesson 7 <i>Guide</i> , 2.5; 2.5.1-4
	B	➤ Reading Markers & Pausal Forms ➤ Tetragrammaton		- Adjective Worksheet	Seow, Excursus B Scott, pp. 3-5; 25-27
Week 6	A	➤ Introduction to all the verbal derived stems in general ➤ Nomenclature for the Stems ➤ Uses of the Qal and Niphal	Quiz #6 Due: Adjective [7]	- Seow 7.b(odd)	Excursus C <i>Guide</i> ; 3.0; 3.1; 3.1.1; 3.1.2; 3.4.3
	B	➤ The Qal participle		- Niphal Worksheet	Seow, Lesson 8
Week 7	A	➤ Uses of the Piel, Pual, Hithpael ➤ Independent Personal Pronouns ➤ Suffixed pronouns	Quiz #7 Due: Binyanim [8]	- Seow, 8.d (odd)	<i>Guide</i> , 3.1.3-5 Seow, Lesson 9
	B	➤ Demonstratives ➤ Relative clauses ➤ Interrogative clauses, exclamations and emphatic questions		- Factitive Worksheet	Seow, Lesson 10
Week 8	A	➤ Uses of the Hiphil, Hophal	Quiz #8 Due: Pronoun & Participle [9]	- Seow, 9.d (odd)	<i>Guide</i> , 3.1.6-7; 4.3.4
	B	Midterm Exam: In Class, March 30			
Reading Week: April 3-7					

Week 9	A	➤ The Construct Chain	Quiz #9 Due: Demonstrative [10]	- Seow, 10.b (#s 1-10) - Causative Worksheet	<i>Guide</i> , 2.2; 2.2.1-13; (cf. 2.5.4 above).
	B	➤ The Superlative ➤ Nouns with pronominal suffixes		- Genitive Relationship Worksheet	Seow, Lesson 11 & 12
Week 10	A	➤ Introduction to “aspect” in the Hebrew verb ➤ The Qal perfect (forms & uses)	Quiz #10 Due: Construct [11 & 12]	- Seow, 11.c (#s 4-6) & 12.c (#s 4-6)	Seow, Lesson 13; <i>Guide</i> , 3.2; 3.2.1.
	B	➤ Grammar Analysis & Word Study Preview		- Perfect Worksheet	
Week 11	A	➤ The Qal perfect of weak roots ➤ Stative verbs	Quiz #11 Due: Perfect Aspect [13]	- Seow, 13b (odd)	Seow, Lesson 14;
	B	➤ Imperfect aspect – forms and uses ➤ Volitionals		- Parsing Worksheet	Seow, Lesson 18 <i>Guide</i> , 3.2.2; 3.3; 3.3.1, 3.3.3
Week 12	A	➤ Qal Infinitive Absolute ➤ Qal Infinitive Construct	Quiz #12 Due: Imperfect Aspect [14]	- Seow, 14.c. (odd) - Imperfect Worksheet	Seow, sections of chps 22 & 23 <i>Guide</i> , 3.4; 3.4.1-2
	B	➤ Preterite ➤ Waw-consecutives ➤ Narrative discourse patterns		- Infinitive Worksheet	Seow, Lesson 20 <i>Guide</i> , 3.5; 3.5.1-2
Week 13	A	➤ Secondary Resources ➤ Poetic Hebrew ➤ Text-Criticism & BHS	Quiz #13: Vocabulary [18]	- Holladay Worksheet (verb)	Seow, Excursus E Scott, 4.
	B	➤ Orientation to the Hebrew Bible		- Translation Worksheet - Word Study Due: 5:00 pm	Seow, Excursus F Scott, chps. 1 & 3
Final Examination: 1:00-3:00pm, Monday, May 15					
Grammatical Analysis Due: 5:00pm, Thursday, May 18					